

December 8, 2024

Twenty-Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, Maternity of Holy Anna



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!*  
*Слава Исусу Христу! Слава на вики!*

Vespers begin on page 104, Vigil Divine Liturgy Propers: see handout

St. George Divine Services for the Week:

- SAT., DEC. 7 ..... TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, *Anticipated*  
MATERNITY of the HOLY ANNA **Solemn Holy Day**  
4:30 P.M. .... VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY, St. Nicholas Dinner following  
Confessions with guest confessor during Liturgy  
+ Lori Dickey Stevik, requested by Connie & Francis Hersh
- TUE., DEC. 10 ..... Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and EUGRAPHUS  
6:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY  
Private intention requested by Renee Pintado
- THUR., DEC. 12 ..... Theotokos of Guadalupe  
6:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY  
+ Therese Homol, requested by Michael McCann
- FRI., DEC. 13 ..... Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes  
8:30 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY  
For the People of St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas
- SUN., DEC. 15 ..... SUNDAY of the FOREFATHERS  
8:30 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY  
+ Joseph Klacik, requested by JoAnn & Francis Hersh

Happy Birthday Greetings & Wedding Anniversaries:

None for the week

**Please Pray for Our Sick, Shut-ins, and those in need of prayer**

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, John Dzumba, Erik Fetkovich, Joanne Futato, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan

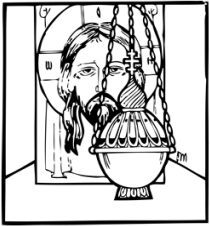
Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

Epistle Readers – December 7: JoAnn Hersh – December 15: JoAnn Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – December 7: R. Mudron – December 15: F. Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

December 8 - 14, 2024

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

The Parishioners

*Today the bonds of barrenness are loosed, for God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna. He promised beyond all hope, the birth of their godly daughter. The indescribable, Himself, born of her as a mortal, commanded us through the angel to sing to her: Rejoice, O woman full of grace, the Lord is with you.*

**Regular Confessions Offered**

St. George ..... 4:45-5:45 P.M. on Thursdays and **before** every Sunday Divine Liturgy  
St. Mary ..... 4:45-5:45 P.M. on Wednesdays and **following** every Sunday Divine Liturgy  
St. Nicholas ..... 4:00-4:45 P.M. before Vigil Liturgy on Saturdays

## *St. Nicholas Dinner & Celebration*

**TODAY! Following Divine Liturgy.**

**Enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres before dinner is served.**

### *Christmas Market*

There is a “Vintage Christmas Market” set up in the Center. If there is anything you like, simply leave a donation for your purchase. *Thank You!*

### *Pirohi Sale This Week*



Our next Pirohi sale will be this **Friday, December 13**. Come and help this week if you are able. Any amount of time you can spare will be greatly appreciated. Plan on purchasing your dinner from our pirohi sale this week and ***Order for Christmas!*** Orders should be called in by Thursday at noon to (724) 375-6652.

**Decorating the Church for Christmas** - As part of our preparation for the Nativity of Christ, we will decorate the Church & Hall next **Sunday, December 15**, after coffee hour. If you are able, please stay to help with putting up the trees and decorations for this sacred time of the year.

**Choir Presents 2024 Christmas Program** - The PBCAC (Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir) invites you to experience the joy of the Nativity season on **Sunday, December 22** as they present “*Joyfully We Sing!*” a choral showcase of beloved music of the Holy Birth of our Lord. The program will begin at **2:00 pm** at St Elias Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road in Munhall, Pa. The Choir’s signature “Cookie Reception” will be held in the church social hall following the program. All are warmly welcome!

### **The Theotokos of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, Dec. 12**

The Theotokos of Guadalupe first appeared on Dec. 9, 1531, in Mexico to St. Juan Diego, bestowing on him an icon “not made with human hands,” requesting that a church be built in her honor on that mountain. Her shrine there is one of the most celebrated places of pilgrimage in the Americas. Pope John Paul II named her the Patroness of the Americas.



**Eternal Memory** - Our Church family offers prayerful condolences to the family of Shirley Yasick who fell asleep in the Lord. In blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to the soul of Your departed servant Shirley and remember her forever! *Vičnaja jej pamjat'!*

### St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

**WED., DEC. 11** ..... **Theotokos of Guadalupe, Anticipated**

**4:45-5:45 P.M.** ..... **Confessions**

**6:00 P.M.** ..... **VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY**

Private Intention requested by Giorgio

**SUN., DEC. 15** ..... **SUNDAY of the FOREFATHERS**

**11:00 A.M.** ..... **DIVINE LITURGY**

+ **Therese Homol**, requested by Michael McCann

### St. Nicholas Chapel Divine Services for the Week:

**SAT., DEC. 14**..... **SUNDAY of the FOREFATHERS**

**5:00 P.M.** ..... **VIGIL DIVINE LITURGY**

For the spiritual and temporal welfare of **Kara Rubino**, requested by Todd and Ann Wilson

### **St. Philips Fast Nov.15 - Dec.24**

#### *Pope Francis Quotes on Advent*

“Just as in each of our lives we always need to begin again, to get up again, to rediscover the meaning of the goal of our lives, so also for the great human family it is always necessary to rediscover the common horizon toward which we are journeying. The horizon of hope! This is the horizon that makes for a good journey. The season of Advent ... restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God’s Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful! He does not disappoint! Let us think about and feel this beauty.



“The model of this spiritual disposition, of this way of being and journeying in life, is the Virgin Mary. A simple girl from the country who carries within her heart the fullness of hope in God! In her womb, God’s hope took flesh, it became man, it became history: Jesus Christ. Her Magnificat is the canticle of the People of God on a journey, and of all men and women who hope in God and in the power of his mercy. Let us allow ourselves to be guided by her, she who is mother, a mama, and knows how to guide us. Let us allow ourselves to be guided by her during this season of active waiting and watchfulness.”

### A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

We are over halfway to Christmas. Let us continue to press on with our additional prayers and penances to prepare ourselves for this great upcoming feast where we celebrate the Birth of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

The dinner at Seven Oaks Chapel celebrating the reopening of St. Nicholas Chapel was a success, drawing over 40 people. At the time of writing this article, the St. Nicholas party at St. George has yet to occur. It's been a joy to participate in the various celebrations at each of our parishes.

This upcoming week we celebrate the Theotokos of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas. We will have a 6:00pm Vesperal Liturgy at St. Mary's on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and a 6:00pm Liturgy at St. George on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Next week, our schedule for the New Year's and Theophany Holy Days will be announced.

In Christ,  
*Fr. Anthony*

### The Maternity of St. Anna, December 8

According to tradition, Joachim and Anna were childless for fifty years of their married life. In their old age, they were promised that a daughter would be born to them. After nine months, St. Anna bore a daughter, blessed by God and by all subsequent generations of humanity: the most holy Theotokos, the ever-virgin Mary. St. Anna was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married St. Joachim, who was a native of Galilee. The Conception of the Virgin Mary by St. Anna took place in Jerusalem. In the icon for this feast, saints Joachim and Anna are usually depicted with hands folded in prayer; their eyes are also directed upward and they contemplate the Mother of God, who stands in the air with outstretched hands; under her feet is an orb encircled by a serpent (symbolizing the devil), which strives to conquer all the universe by its power. There are also icons in which St. Anna holds the Theotokos on her left arm as an infant. On St. Anna's face is a look of reverence. Traditionally, this Feast is especially venerated by pregnant women.



*Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!*

### *Twenty Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

*And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving Him thanks.*

In healing the ten lepers, Jesus revealed his power and glory. Yet only one of the lepers returned to acknowledge Jesus' glory and to give Him thanks. And that one was a Samaritan, a foreigner. What happened to the other nine? What went wrong with them that went right with the Samaritan? The nine were right with the Samaritan? The nine were blinded to the truth of what Jesus did and who He was. They were so wrapped up in themselves, in their illness and their healing, that they failed to give glory to the One who cleansed them.



Are we so different? We live in an age when the experiences and accomplishments of this world are the only things that are held to be of any value. As we read in St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians 4:4: "The god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God". There is a spiritual battle going on in the world and in us. Satan is out to take away the vision of Jesus as our healer.

The Fathers of the Church see a lesson in today's Gospel reading for us. The ten lepers signify mankind. We are all leprous, but only one in ten give thanks to God for the salvation He has brought to us. In the same way, only some of the seed sown by God (in the Parable of the Sower) brings forth good fruit. We can all be cleansed by Him, but if we do not return to Him in gratitude and to glorify Him, we cannot be saved.

It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that we can win the battle that is going on inside us. The role of the Holy Spirit is to reveal to us who Jesus is and to convict us of our state. As we see that we are infected with the leprosy of sin, and as we experience the healing that Jesus has performed within us through the shedding of His blood on the cross, we can turn back to Him, fall on our knees at his feet, and thank Him, acknowledging His power and glory.

**How do you glorify God?** – The Lord expressed love for the one who was thankful, but He was angry with the ungrateful ones because they did not acknowledge their Deliverer. They thought more highly of their cure from leprosy than of He who had healed them. ... The one who returned to give thanks was given much more than the rest. Besides being healed of his leprosy, he was told by the Lord, "Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you." You see, those who give thanks and those who glorify have the same kind of feelings. They bless their helper for the benefits they have received. This is why Paul urged everyone to "glorify God with your body." (1 Cor 6:20). (*Saint Athanasius*)

ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

PRIEST: FATHER ANTHONY COSTANTINO

Fr. Anthony's Cell #: (878) 226-0878

OFFICE PHONE: 724-375-2742

ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652

PARISH EMAIL: stgbyz@gmail.com

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org

Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238

Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik, Dan Pinchot

Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh – Church Office: Judy Dzumba



Holy Mystery of Reconciliation ..... Thursdays 4:45-5:45 P.M. & before Sunday Liturgy

Holy Mysteries of Initiation ..... Contact the priest

Holy Mystery of Anointing ..... Contact the priest prior to surgery or in the event of illness

Holy Mystery of Marriage ..... Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

Pirohi Sales ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month

Opportunities for Stewardship .....Church and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday, Pirohi making: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each month, October - May

*O Christ the Savior, source of our salvation, come to us and save us!*

Christmas Services Schedule

St. George

- THURS., DEC. 19 .....  
6:00 P.M. .... ROYAL HOURS
- TUE., DEC. 24..... NATIVITY of our LORD, *Anticipated*, **Obligation Holy Day**  
7:00 P.M..... GREAT COMPLINE with LITIA,  
DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
- THUR., DEC. 26 ..... SYNAXIS of the THEOTOKOS, **Solemn Holy Day**  
6:00 P.M..... DIVINE LITURGY,  
Traditional procession with the Gospels
- FRI., DEC. 27 ..... STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR, **Simple Holy Day**  
9:00 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY

St. Mary

- WED., DEC. 25..... CHRISTMAS DAY, **Obligation Holy Day**  
9:30 A.M..... MATINS  
11:00 A.M..... DIVINE LITURGY of ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

St. Nicholas Chapel

- TUE., DEC. 24..... NATIVITY of our LORD, *Anticipated*, **Obligation Holy Day**  
4:00 P.M..... VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY of ST. BASIL the GREAT

Pre-Nativity Troparion

*Bethlehem, make ready, Eden has been opened for all. Ephrathah, prepare yourself, for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Virgin in the cave. Her womb has become a spiritual paradise in which divinity has been planted. If we partake of it, we shall live and not die like Adam. Christ is born to raise up the likeness that had fallen.*

